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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides a brief introduction to the juvenile justice system, in lay person's terms, for parents of juveniles in trouble and other nonprofessionals, such as merchants, teachers, and the general public. The booklet begins with some basic information about juvenile crime and the juvenile justice system, followed by answers to some frequently asked questions. Included is a list of resource organizations and agencies that can help the reader find answers to other questions as well as a suggested reading list. A chart of the juvenile justice system in 1979 helps to clarify the process from intake to case disposition in graphic format. A glossary of frequently used words also is provided in the booklet. (KC)

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Facts About Youth and Delinquency

A Citizen's Guide to Juvenile Justice

prepared by the
National Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse of the
National Criminal Justice Reference Service
for the
National Institute for Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

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November 1982

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
James C. Howell, Ph.D.
Acting Director

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Office of the Director

633 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear neighbors,

Public concern about crime and juvenile delinquency has probably never been greater in modern times. Nor has the public been properly informed about what has been and is happening in the area of crime and delinquency. The Congress has directed the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to serve as a National Clearinghouse on all aspects of juvenile delinquency. Therefore, we wanted to begin a public education campaign with this readable and understandable document for lay persons.

Numerous other publications are available now and still others will follow shortly which provide much more detailed information on juvenile delinquency trends and patterns. These are readily available through our Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse. It has a toll-free telephone line, (800) 638-8736. Should you like to receive other reports, please call or write to the Clearinghouse.

I would be delighted to hear your reaction to this document.

Sincerely,

James C. Howell

James C. Howell, Ph.D.
Acting Director

Preface

Juvenile delinquency is of great concern to all of us. From newspapers and television, many get the impression that we are in the midst of a serious juvenile crime wave. Although we do not have evidence of such a crime wave, the level of serious juvenile crime continues to be a national problem, as was recently stated by the U.S. Attorney General's Task Force on Violent Crime (1981). But great as our concern must be, most children in trouble are not committing violent offenses.

Though your family may never have come into contact with the juvenile justice system, many of us have friends whose children have been picked up for joyriding; relatives whose youngsters are in trouble for playing hooky from school; fellow students who have been arrested for under-age drinking. We know merchants who get headaches over shoplifting, much of which they blame on teenagers.

It is these sorts of things that are most likely, in our society, to bring children and their families into the workings of the juvenile justice system. Not only for those who are newly introduced to this sometimes frightening system but to those who watch it with concern from afar, we offer this booklet as a brief introduction. We think it will relieve many of your fears--and perhaps make you want to learn how you can help the system work better.

Because we know that the terminology used in the juvenile justice process may be unfamiliar, a glossary of frequently used words appears on the inside front and back covers.* The booklet begins with some basic information about juvenile crime and the juvenile justice system, followed by answers to some frequently asked questions. We include a list of resource organizations and agencies that can help you find answers to other questions you may have, and a suggested reading list.

--The Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse

*Many of these definitions are derived from those provided in *Juvenile Delinquency--Theory, Practice, and Law* by Larry J. Siegel and Joseph J. Senna, West Publishing Co., 1981. Any errors, however, are the responsibility of the authors of this booklet, not of the authors from whose work the definitions were derived.

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How much juvenile crime?

Between 80 and 90 percent of our children under 18 commit some offense for which they could be arrested.[1] Yet only about 3 percent of them ever are.

FBI figures for 1980 indicate that 9,703,181 arrests were recorded for persons of all ages, 2,025,713 of them persons under 18. Persons under 18 were reported responsible for 9.3 percent of homicides, 14.8 percent of forcible rapes, 30 percent of robberies, 14.8 percent of assaults, 45 percent of burglaries, 37.4 percent of larcenies, and 44.2 percent of arson.

Juvenile arrests made up 21 percent of the total. About 14 percent of the total U.S. population is between 10 and 18.[2]

According to the arrest records, juveniles accounted for a whopping 45.3 percent of motor vehicle thefts!

Serious juvenile crime[3] is a national problem. However, for certain types of crime, the statistics exaggerate the problem. For example, that 45.3 percent of vehicle thefts includes cases in which the vehicle was quickly recovered undamaged--the typical juvenile "joyride"--and cases in which the person arrested was never prosecuted. There also is reason to believe that youths are more likely than adult offenders to get caught.

What about trends?

Both the volume (total number of arrests) and rate of juvenile crime leveled off, beginning about 1975. Between 1975 and 1980 the volume and rate of adult crime increased. However, during the same period, the FBI figures show that juvenile arrests--

- for all types of crimes, decreased 8 percent.
- for violent crimes, increased less than 1 percent.
- for serious property crimes, decreased 5 percent.

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[1] *Juvenile Justice: Before and After the Onset of Delinquency*; citing Hindelang and McDermott. Full bibliographic data for these and other works cited in this booklet are given in the reading list beginning on page 31.

[2] Census Bureau 1979 estimate.

[3] For convenience we shall continue to use the words "crime" and "arrest." Under most State laws, however, the correct words are "delinquency" and "taken into custody."

- for noncriminal misbehavior--"status offenses"--decreased 30 percent.
- for other nonserious offenses, decreased 8 percent.

The "rate of juvenile arrests" means the number of arrests per 100,000 youth aged 10 through 17 in the total U.S. population. Between 1975 and 1980, this rate--

- for all types of crimes, decreased 2 percent.
- for violent crimes, increased 2 percent.
- for serious property crimes, decreased 4 percent.
- for "status offenses," decreased 31 percent.
- for other nonserious offenses, increased 10 percent.

***juvenile**: a person who, by reason of age, falls under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court or similar court. States have different age cutoffs, but for statistical purposes we usually assume a juvenile is older than 10 and younger than 18 years.*

***delinquent**: a juvenile who has committed an act, including violation of State laws and local ordinances, which, if the child were an adult, would be a crime.*

***status offender**: a juvenile who has committed an act, legally prohibited to juveniles, which would not be a crime if committed by an adult. Such an act is also called "noncriminal misbehavior."*

It's easier to get in trouble when you're under 18. The 2 million plus arrests of juveniles include such offenses as youth curfew violations and running away from home--acts for which no adult could be arrested.

The suggestion has been made, in fact, that a certain amount of misbehavior is a normal part of growing up. When we speak of juvenile delinquency, however, we ordinarily mean something far more harmful than minor misbehavior at home or at school.

The offenses which the FBI defines as violent crimes are homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes make up less than 1 percent of the total number of almost 10 million arrests.

Similarly, 2 million juvenile arrests do not mean that 2 million juveniles were arrested. Many--we cannot tell how many--were arrested more than once.

One study[4] in a middle-sized Midwestern city showed that 5 percent of the juveniles studied committed 75 percent of the felonies in their age group--and that less than 14 percent committed **all** the felonies in their group.

An obvious difficulty in counting juvenile crime is the definition of juvenile. In New Mexico, for example (and indeed, in 38 States and the District of Columbia), a person who is not yet 18 is considered a juvenile; a person 18 or older is considered an adult for purposes of criminal law. In New York, however, the crimi-

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[4]Shannon. 8

nal law considers a person 16 or older to be an adult.[5]

Juvenile offenses may be underreported through the increasing practice of diverting juveniles away from the formal justice system, often before they are taken into custody by the police. A stiff warning by a police officer to a group of youngsters who are trespassing or loitering may in fact be sufficient to keep them from doing it again.

A third difficulty in counting youth "crime" is the existence of "status offenses"--such noncriminal misbehavior as truancy, running away, or use of alcohol when less than the legal age.

Researchers and youth officers alike frequently distinguish between **official delinquency** and **law-violating behavior.** This distinction emphasizes the fact that large numbers of illegal acts are never reported. Moreover, those "official delinquents" who have fallen into the hands of the courts or the police may not be representative or typical of the larger group of juveniles.

Finally, the number of arrests does not necessarily reflect the amount of crime. It may simply reflect more vigorous police activity. Similarly, the number of crimes reported may simply reflect greater citizen awareness, a growing willingness to report crime.

[5] Smith et al., *Serious Juvenile Crime* v. 3, summarizes State variations in the section titled "Part B--Jurisdiction."

The figures which the FBI gathers annually from local police and publishes as *Uniform Crime Reports* are our best known crime statistics, but not the only useful ones. Other methods of measuring crime touch on different aspects of the problem. Summaries of data from these sources follow.

Victimization studies

One such far-reaching effort is the National Crime Survey (NCS) sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. NCS surveys a sample of approximately 60,000 households and 50 000 businesses every 6 months to determine the nature of **victimization**, if any, each has suffered since the last survey contact.

Respondents who have been victimized are asked to describe the nature of the offense, type of injury, weapon used, and financial loss incurred. Respondents who have suffered a personal victimization (defined as rape, robbery, assault, or personal larceny) are asked to indicate the offender's sex and race and **estimate the offender's age.** Although such age estimates are obviously subject to wide errors, the NCS still provides a unique source of information for the relationship between age and type of offense as perceived by the victim. Analyzing NCS data for the period 1973-77, McDermott and Hindelang found a 12 percent increase in crimes attributable to adults and a 13 percent decrease in crimes attributable to juveniles.

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Q *How likely is a juvenile to use a weapon?*

A *NCS data indicate that the older an offender is, the more likely he is to use a weapon. Juvenile offenders used a weapon in 27 percent of their personal victimizations; 18- through 20-year-olds, 36 percent; and adults (21 or older), 41 percent.*

They note that although one quarter of personal victimizations during those 5 years were committed by juveniles, there was wide variation in juvenile participation across crime categories: 32 percent of personal larcenies but only 8 percent of rapes.

Self-report studies

Yet another measurement of crime depends on having offenses identified by the offenders themselves.

Self-report studies give us valuable information on the illegal acts not only of youths who have had formal contact with the juvenile justice system but of those who have escaped such contact.

Q *How much more crime do boys commit than girls?*

A *According to arrest records, about three times as much. But according to self-report studies, only about twice as much. This question is answered in greater detail on page 21.*

Sometimes self-report studies are conducted one-to-one through interviews with a promise of confidentiality. More commonly, they are conducted through a mass distribution of questionnaires, thus making the subjects truly anonymous. A questionnaire might ask, for example, "How often did you sneak things out of a store without paying?"

Among advantages of self-report is that questions can be inserted which are not directly related to delinquent activity. We can learn about the respondent's self-image, attitudes toward family and friends, attitudes toward school or the police. Reports of this type give us a better idea of who is delinquent and why--and eventually, hopefully, new ideas for preventing delinquency.

Most self-report studies indicate that the number of children who break the law is far greater than had been believed. In fact, when truancy, alcohol use, petty theft, and soft drug use are included in self-report questionnaires, we derive such startling statistics as the one with which this booklet opened: 80 to 90 percent of persons under 18 eventually commit some act for which they could be arrested.

The studies reveal other interesting data. It has long been believed that the greatest amount of juvenile crime is committed by groups, including gangs, of offenders. Some self-report studies confirm that the majority of delinquent acts do occur in groups, but that their extent may be overestimated. One researcher states that when a group of youths commits an offense, the members' chance of apprehension

is much greater than that of a juvenile acting alone.[6] His self-report study found that between 37 and 42 percent of delinquencies were committed by individuals acting alone.

Summing up

Regardless of which statistical method is employed to measure crime, there is little doubt that the problem and incidence of illegal behavior by youth is a serious national concern. In particular, the public seems to perceive that not only are juveniles committing more crime, but that

A nationwide self-report survey of high school students for the National Institute on Drug Abuse revealed:

- *That 1978-79 marked the crest of a long and dramatic rise in marijuana use among high school students (dropouts were not surveyed). Use of marijuana is now about 5 percent below the late-seventies figures.*
- *The proportion using any illicit drug at any time (even once) reached a high of 54 percent in 1979 but dropped about 2 percent during the next 2 years.*
- *Juvenile use of PCP or angel dust dropped from 6 percent in 1977 to 4 percent in 1980.*

Other studies indicate that the drug juveniles use most frequently is beer.

[6] Maynard Erickson, "The Group Context of Delinquent Behavior," *Social Problems* 19 (1971).

youths are becoming involved in more serious crime.

The best available measurements do not seem to support the notion that juveniles are committing more crime.[7] However, it may well be true that youths in certain parts of the country, perhaps in large cities, are committing more serious crimes than, say, 10 years ago. This issue is currently being studied.

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[7]This section is based on the analysis by Snyder and Hutzler for a Government-supported statistical center, the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

The victimization data discussed earlier show that both the number and rate of personal victimizations committed by **adults increased** while personal victimizations by **juveniles declined.**

Personal victimizations by juveniles **nationally** were less serious, according to NCS results, in terms of weapon use, rate of injury, and financial loss, than those by adults during the same period.

The NCS findings do show that juvenile involvement in personal victimizations is substantial. They do not, however, support the common belief that the rate and seriousness of juvenile crime is increasing across the Nation.

The juvenile justice process

Suppose you get an unexpected call from the police--your child has been taken into custody for skipping school, or shoplifting, or drinking in a bar after showing a forged ID card.

It's frightening, but it's not the end of the world. The policy in most States is to take the child out of the juvenile justice system at the earliest possible point consistent with the child's own good and the safety of the public. The police may simply ask you to come down and pick him up. Your child, however, may wind up in court.

In any event, the juvenile justice system is set up to reform, not to punish, the young offender. The system works best when it has the cooperation of concerned--not angry--parents.

The chart beginning on the next page shows many of the things that may happen, although juvenile justice procedures vary a great deal from one State to the next. You may understand the juvenile justice system better if we tell you a little about how it came to be.

'Not an enemy but a protector'

The first Juvenile Court was not established until 1899, in Chicago, with the thought that the child "who had broken a law or an ordinance is to be taken in hand by the State, not as an enemy but as a protector. . ."[8]

Ten years later, enacting a law similar to that in Illinois, New York provided that a child coming under its purview would not be considered guilty of any crime "but of juvenile delinquency only."

Despite its central role in the juvenile justice system, the Family or Juvenile Court is only a part of that system. In many circumstances, a child who has run afoul of the law never appears in Juvenile Court.

Some think that because a child has been "in and out of Juvenile Court," that child is a proven young criminal. This is not necessarily true. We distinguished earlier between delinquents, whose prohibited acts would be criminal if committed by an adult, and status offenders (such

Text continues on page 11.

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[8] Julian W. Mack (1910), quoted in Smith, Black, and Campbell. Like Flicker, p. 26 et seq., Smith, Black, and Campbell provide (pp. 1-10) a brief history of the development of a separate juvenile justice system as well as references to longer treatments of the subject.

The IN's and OUT's of the juvenile justice process

The following tabular presentation shows some of the key decision points in formal processing of an accused or dependent juvenile. The process varies widely from one State to the next, but the general pattern is similar to that in this simplified series of ways in and ways out of the system:

Arrest

The juvenile justice process often begins with an investigation by a police officer either because he or she observes a law violation or because a violation is reported to the police.

The police officer may decide to release the child to his or her parent with a warning or reprimand, or the officer may release to the parents on condition that the juvenile enroll in a community diversion program.

Or the officer may take the juvenile into custody and refer the matter to the Juvenile Court's intake officer for further processing.

Intake

The intake officer is responsible for determining whether or not a case should move ahead for further court processing.

The intake officer may decide to release the juvenile to the parents with a warning or reprimand or may release the child on condition that the child enroll in a community diversion program or submit to informal probation (supervision) by a Juvenile Court officer.

If not, the intake officer will recommend that a petition be filed, equivalent to filing a charge, and will refer the case to the Juvenile Court prosecutor. The intake officer also makes the initial decision as to whether the child shall be detained pending further court action or released to the parents pending hearing. If the juvenile is detained, the decision is reviewed by a judge or a court administrator at a Juvenile Court detention hearing.

Petition

The Juvenile Court prosecutor reviews the recommendation of the intake officer that a petition be filed. The petition, if filed by the prosecutor, is a formal document that initiates the court adjudication process.

The prosecutor may dismiss the case or, in contrast, find the allegations so serious that he recommends the juvenile be waived to adult court for trial as an adult.

Adjudication

The Juvenile Court judge must review all the evidence presented at a hearing and determine whether to sustain or reject the allegations made on the petition.

The Juvenile Court judge may reject the allegations made in the petition; then the juvenile is released. In some cases the judge may believe that the allegations are true but withhold adjudication on condition the child agrees to enroll in a community program that the court feels will help resolve the problem. By withholding adjudication, many of the problems identified by labeling theorists are avoided or, at least, lessened.

If the allegations in the petition are sustained, the child is adjudicated delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision. From here the case moves to disposition.

Disposition

At a hearing, the Juvenile Court judge reviews the recommendations of all concerned parties as to what should happen to the child.

Even now, the judge may decide that a severe form of treatment is not to the advantage of the youth or the community. In this case, the disposition may be probation, a warning or reprimand, some form of community service, a fine, or "home detention," in which the juvenile continues to live at home but receives rigorous daily counseling.

Other dispositions are more stringent. They may be such nonsecure custodial treatment as foster care or group home placement--but they may range up to incarceration in a secure juvenile correctional facility. The judge's disposition will depend on the seriousness of the offense and the child's previous court history.

Aftercare

Whatever disposition is made of the case, the court may make the termination of that disposition contingent upon the juvenile's acceptance of aftercare--probation, counseling, enrollment in a community program, or any of a number of other forms of treatment designed to lessen the chance that the youth will get in trouble again.

Continued from page 7.

as runaways), whose misbehavior is noncriminal and is not prohibited to an adult. In addition, the Juvenile Court in most States is responsible for **children who are themselves victims:** nonoffenders such as the abused, neglected, or dependent.

Finally, a high proportion of young offenders simply cease their unacceptable conduct at some time, whether through the treatment they have received through the juvenile justice system, through normal maturation--growing up--or for other reasons.[9]

[9]See Shannon.

The court's philosophy

The ways in which a juvenile is brought to the attention of the juvenile justice system vary widely. If a child has committed an obvious delinquency, a police arrest is likely. If, however, the child has been habitually truant or in conflict with home and family, this may be reported to the court by a concerned parent, neighbor, or teacher.

However, not all children who could become involved in the system do become involved. According to Black and Smith (p. 31), of all persons under the age of 18 who are involved in an offense or who are in a state of need, only about 9 percent a year

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enter the system. Further, as we have noted, many who are involved with the system are diverted from the process before they would have had to appear in court.

To understand why this occurs, one must look at the philosophy behind the Juvenile Court concept. The court is founded on the principle of *parens patriae* (the state as parent), under which the court attempts to act as a **wise guardian** on behalf of the state, providing for the care, custody, and discipline of a child who is not receiving these at home. In seeking thus to act in the child's best interest, ensuring individualized and humane treatment, the court may be less interested in determining whether a child is guilty of a specific offense than in determining what the needs of the child are and then finding the most appropriate resource to meet these needs.[10]

A juvenile's rights

In midcentury, however, fears began to rise that the same informal, parental nature that gave the Juvenile Court its special character could be misused to deny children due process of law.

The courts could impose such severe sanctions on children as placing them in foster homes, assigning them to probation, or even locking them up in institutions--all without jury trial or right to counsel or other supposedly inalienable rights. This led to a series of Supreme Court decisions resulting in limitations on the traditional discretionary powers of the Juvenile Court by increasing a juvenile's rights of due process.

In *Kent* v. *United States* (1966) the Supreme Court stated:

> There is evidence that the child receives the worst of two possible worlds: That he gets neither the protections accorded to adults nor the solicitous care and regenerative treatment postulated for children.

The following year the Supreme Court's decision *In re Gault* extended to juveniles most of the due process rights previously reserved for adults. Although some of these rights may be rarely demanded, or some jurisdictions may not yet regularly extend them, generally they include notice of charges, right to counsel, right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, privilege against self-incrimination, right to a transcript of the proceedings, and right to appeal to a higher court. Even plea bargaining, though perhaps not always considered a "right," has found its way from adult into juvenile jurisdiction.

Self-fulfilling prophecy?

The juvenile process came under fire from another quarter. Some juvenile justice practitioners and theorists came to believe that the juvenile justice system itself was having a negative effect on the children it was designed to serve. "Labeling theory" holds that when you proclaim a child delinquent, he

[10]See Empey, p. 92.

tends to act out that role by committing other delinquent acts, thus making the label itself become a self-fulfilling prophecy.[11]

In most States, efforts are made to divert status offenders, nonoffenders--and even delinquents--from court involvement whenever possible. And what of the case where the court finds official intervention in a child's life is necessary, whether from delinquency, noncriminal misbehavior, abuse, or dependency? The spectrum of alternatives available to the court is the subject of the next chapter.

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[11]Although labeling theory remains a subject of controversy, it was generally endorsed by the U.S. Congress when it passed the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and on the occasions since 1974 when Congress reenacted or amended the legislation. For a more detailed discussion, see Empey, p. 356 et seq. Some recent research, however, indictes that diversion programs, intended to avoid labeling, have about as much negative labeling effect as the juvenile justice system itself.

For a future with hope

If the Juvenile or Family Court finds a child either delinquent or in need of supervision (status offender), the court must then decide what treatment--disposition--it will order in the case. There are many options, among them commitment to an institution; placement in a group home, foster home, or residential treatment facility; probation; referral to a diversion program; day treatment or mental health program; a fine; restitution or community service; or some logical combination.

(Even a child found dependent--a nonoffender--will reach this dispositional stage, where some sort of residential placement is the most likely treatment.)

The correctional alternatives are many and varied, but this was not always the case. Until the early 19th century, the only place to send such a child, including one in need of protection, was an adult prison or workhouse.

Children under 7 were considered incapable of criminal intent; a court could consider arguments that a child between 7 and 14 lacked criminal intent; otherwise a juvenile offender was tried by

the same court, under the same law, as an adult charged with the same offense. (In fact, in the New Plymouth Colony, the death penalty was provided for being a "stubborn or rebellious son"--which today we would put under the catchall status offense classification of "incorrigibility.")

Early in the 19th century, however, courts began to set aside different hours or days for the trial of juvenile cases. New York established a separate institution for young offenders in the 1820's, a "House of Refuge" intended to prevent cruel punishment to the very young and an institution quickly copied in several other States. Boston began in 1841 to release certain juvenile offenders to the care of individuals, families, or agencies whom the court thought capable of rehabilitating the youths--a forerunner of probation.[12]

Early juvenile institutions were industrial schools modeled after adult prisons but designed to protect children from the evil influence of adult offenders. By 1900, some 36 States had "reform schools." Indeed, this form of restrictive correctional institution--in modified form, to be sure--is still found today as a "training school" or "correctional learning center."

In the second half of the 19th century many reform schools began to use a "cottage" system, which was believed to be more rehabilitative and less punitive than the "workhouse" model. A series of residences loosely grouped together, though often behind a high fence, had a pair of "house parents" for each cottage and was thought to provide a more homelike atmosphere.

Together with the emergence of the Juvenile Court at the turn of the century and the increasing number of juvenile offenders as the Nation's population swelled, innovative forms of juvenile correctional options emerged--forestry camps, ranches, educational and vocational schools.

A 'right to treatment'?

Further emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punishment brought a proliferation of treatment services, both in secure and "open" correctional institutions. These included counseling, mental health care, vocational and recreational programs, and religious and legal services.

Although treatment was not among the rights extended to juveniles by the U.S. Supreme Court rulings of the 1960's and 1970's, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals held in 1974 that juveniles have not only a statutory but constitutional right to treatment and that Federal judges can require establishment of standards by which to judge minimal adherence by institutions to individualized treatment.

The 1960's and 1970's also brought a growing emphasis on

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[12] A more extensive treatment of the history of juvenile corrections may be found in Siegel and Senna, cited in the preface to this booklet, on whose work the subsequent paragraphs are partly based.

community-based programs, or community corrections--programs which would attempt a child's rehabilitation in healthy community surroundings much like those in which it was hoped the child would eventually lead a healthful and useful life.

Characteristic of such community programs were neighborhood counseling, recreational, and vocational services. But residential care was often necessary, as well.

The most widely used form of juvenile correctional residence today--a shelter or group home--is ideally, though not always, located in a community residential setting. Almost half of all juveniles in custody in 1979 were in "open" rather than institutional facilities, and two-thirds of the custodial facilities available were classified as of minimal security or none as opposed to "strict" or "medium" security.[13]

A typical group home will house perhaps 8 or 12 juveniles--boys, girls, or both. Rules are strict, but the atmosphere is loving, and the juveniles are expected to show steady progress in responsibilty both toward their school work and toward their fellow residents in order to earn such privileges as visits home, increased money allowance, rare but treasured nights out--and, eventually, release to resume living either at home, with foster parents, or, for older youths, "independent" in the community.

treatment: ". . . *includes but is not limited to medical, educational, special education, corrective and preventive guidance and training, and other rehabilitative services designed to protect the public, including services designed to benefit addicts and other users by eliminating their dependence on alcohol or other addictive or non-addictive drugs or by controlling their dependence and susceptibility to addiction or use." (JJDP Act definition.) Rehabilitative approaches used to effect a change from unacceptable to acceptable behaviors.*

Frequently there is citizen objection to locating a such program in a residential neighborhood. Better-run group homes, however, do not increase crime rates in their neighborhoods--and the ones less well run do not keep their licenses very long. (Group homes are sometimes publicly owned; more often licensed by the same city or county government which sends them their clients.)

Although some correctional experts disagree, proponents of community corrections cite statistics showing that "open" facilities have lower rates of recidivism (return to unlawful behavior) than secure facilities--and sharply lower costs.

[13]Data from *Children in Custody*, Advance Report on the 1979 Census of Juvenile Facilities. These periodic surveys are sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Federal impetus

One reason for the new emphasis on community corrections and on open rather than secure facilities was the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974. In that legislation, as amended, Congress favored removing all status offenders and nonoffenders (including the neglected and dependent) from secure detention or confinement (as well as for development of community-based programs for delinquents). Congress provided funds by which OJJDP could subsidize or otherwise encourage State action to remove from institutions "juveniles who are charged with or who have committed offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult . . . "

The Act further creates incentives for housing status offenders separately from accused or adjudicated delinquents, and provides that if it is necessary to house any juveniles in the same facility as adults, they be housed in a manner separate from incarcerated adults. Finally, in the 1980 Juvenile Justice Amendments, Congress required that States receiving Federal funds for their juvenile justice programs take effective steps to remove all juveniles from adult jails or lockups.

It is important here to make a distinction between correction and detention. **Correction** is treatment applied to juveniles who are adjudicated offenders (or to adults who are convicted offenders). **Detention** is confinement before adjudication (for adults, confinement before trial). The purpose of the first is to change an individual's behavior. The purpose of the second is merely to ensure the accused's presence in court or, in certain circumstances, to protect the safety either of the accused or of the community.

A person merely detained retains his or her constitutional presumption of innocence.

Use of jails for the detention of juveniles usually is defended on the grounds that small communities cannot afford secure juvenile detention facilities--or that it is too far to travel to take a juvenile to secure detention--or that "it'll straighten the kid out to spend a night in jail."

Many studies have found, however, and many distinguished judges and youth workers have borne witness, that jail detention is frequently imposed when there is no real risk of a youth's failure to appear or becoming a danger to the community. They call turning detention into a punishment a psychological wrong as well as a constitutional one.

News stories of savage attacks on juveniles by adult jail prisoners or of the high rate of suicide among jailed youth seem to bear them out.

Where the offender goes

With that brief detour into the problems of detention, let us consider what the Juvenile Court is likely to do with the correctional alternatives available for the adjudicated offender.[14]

As the chart on the following page shows, half the cases that go to Juvenile Court are dismissed--not necessarily because no case could be made against a youth, but in many cases because the court believed that the mere processing of the case or the youth's willingness to enter a diversion program had achieved the court's rehabilitative function.

A third of all dispositions placed the child on probation or into some community-based program ("public or private agency" on the chart). Only one case in 20 resulted in some form of institutionalization. More than half of these were for property crimes; another one-fifth for crimes against persons. Youth with prior court records made up 85 percent of those institutionalized.

Crimes against persons were charged to 11 percent of the juveniles brought to court and crimes against property to 48 percent. Only 6 percent of cases were drug offenses, while "offenses against public order"--victimless sex or weapons offenses, drunkenness, disturbance, or probation and parole violations --accounted for 15 percent.

The remaining 20 percent were charged with status offenses.

Slightly more than three-quarters of all juvenile court cases involved males, and 85 percent of alleged male offenses involved delinquency. Of the female cases, 37 percent involved status offenses, and more than 40 percent of alleged status offenders were female.[15] Accused girls, however, were more likely than boys to have their cases dismissed.

The effect of race on Juvenile Court dispositions is difficult to interpret, and further research is underway to attempt to find patterns in such confusing data as these: Although accused blacks are more likely to be institutionalized than whites, their cases are also more likely to be dismissed. Actually, a third group, "other minority," has a higher rate of institutionalization and fewer dismissals than either whites or blacks.

One tentative finding of other research (Shannon's) is that the characteristics of the neighborhood where an arrest is made have as much to do with who is ar-

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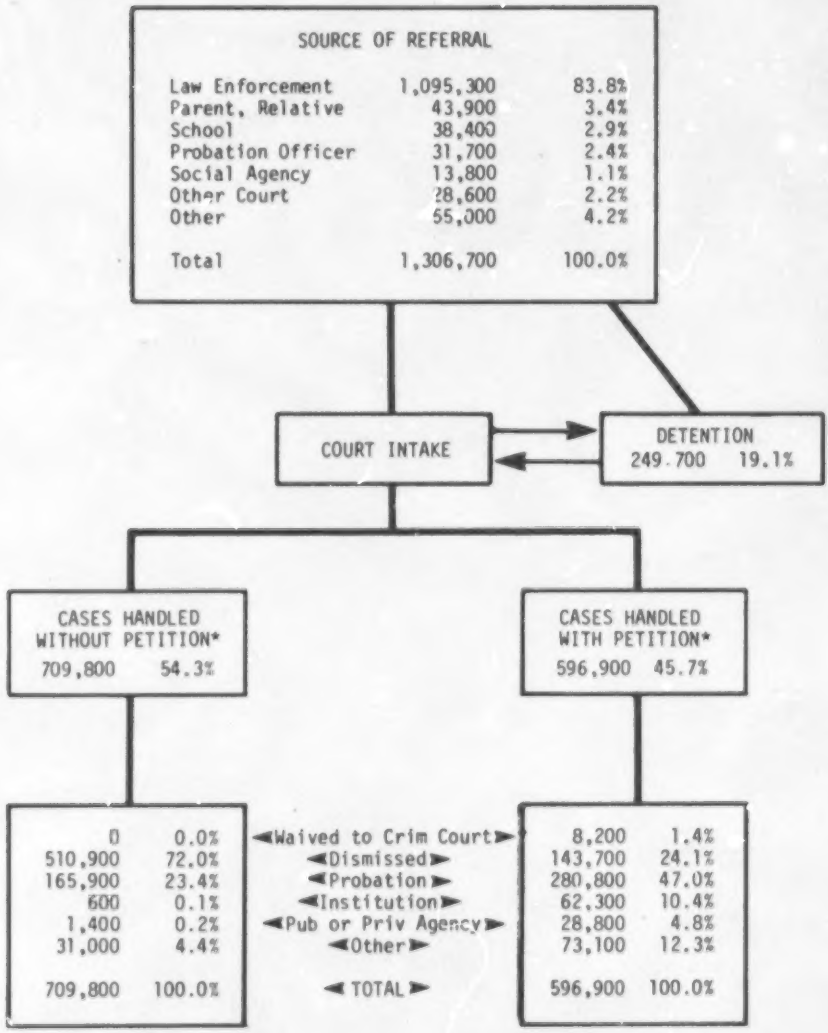
[14]Unless otherwise indicated, statistical data in the remainder of this chapter are estimates compiled by the National Center for Juvenile Justice for its publication *Delinquency 1979*. Data for later years are being compiled, but were not yet available at the time this booklet was prepared.

[15]The question-and-answer section of this booklet looks into the fact that more girls than boys are arrested for running away. For perhaps similar reasons, females arrested for status offenses, drug, or public order offenses were more likely to be detained than boys charged with similar offenses.

1979 Juvenile Justice System Model



* Document filed in Juvenile Court asking the court to conduct a formal hearing to assume jurisdiction in a delinquency, status, or dependency case.

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rested as race does. In such neighborhoods, delinquency rates run high for all three racial groups.

One additional dispositional alternative available to the Juvenile Court in most States (and available to the juvenile justice system by other means in other States) is that of transfer or waiver to adult court. This occurred in only about 1 percent of all Juvenile Court cases.

Ironically, the juvenile whose offenses are so frequent or so serious that he is tried as an adult could actually receive a less restrictive sentence than the sanction a Juvenile Court would mete out. Among other reasons, as an adult, he can seek leniency as a first (adult) offender.

The number of cases heard in Juvenile Court and the number of juveniles undergoing correctional treatment or confinement has consistently declined in recent years--in part because the number of juveniles in the population is declining. The rate of referral of juvenile cases to court, however, remains almost constant. Court data give no evidence of a juvenile crime wave--at least none of any involving more than that small minority of repeat offenders who involve themselves in serious crime.

Today the Juvenile Court is usually guided by the principle of "least restrictive alternatives." That is, it attempts to limit the penetration of youths into the system but also to ensure that their difficulties are addressed by other agencies whenever possible.

Questions and answers

Q *What can I do if my child runs away from home?*

A Try not to panic. Contact your child's friends, who often will know of a runaway's plans. Contact the police, but **first** collect for them the information they'll need--as good a description as possible (and a recent photograph will help), what your child was last seen wearing, names of your child's friends. Don't be surprised if the police wait 24 hours before filing a missing persons bulletin--they usually do unless foul play is suspected.

There are two national runaway hot lines where runaway youth can learn what services are available to them and through which they can communicate with their parents. See numbers on page 25.

Q *How can children learn about their rights and responsibilities under the law?*

A Some schools now offer a course in law-related education (LRE). This is "a program of instruction designed to provide students with conceptual as well as practical understanding of the law and legal process and to equip them with knowledge of both their rights and responsibilities." An evaluation of LRE funded by NIJJDP found a small but significant relationship between increased skill and knowledge in LRE and adherence to the law--in other words, a positive effect in delinquency prevention.

Q *Do girls commit different kinds of offenses than boys?*

A According to the 1980 Uniform Crime Reports, boys are arrested more often and for more serious crimes. Arrests of girls under 18 made up only 6.3 percent of the total number of arrests for the eight most serious ("index") crimes; boys accounted for 29.7 percent.

Boys are most often arrested for burglary--42.1 percent of total (juvenile and adult) burglary arrests. Girls are most

often arrested for larceny--9.8 percent of total larceny arrests. More girls than boys are arrested for only one offense--running away.

Examining the 1976 UCR, Lamar Empey (p. 125) noted the greater number of girl runaways and commented: "This difference may have been due at least in part to the traditional double standard in which both society and the police are more concerned about unsupervised girls than...about unsupervised boys."

Q ***They talk about "bad company". . . . Do kids turn delinquent because they hang around with delinquents?***

A We cannot say for certain why a particular child becomes delinquent. We know that in a child's early years, family relationships are a critical influence. Later on, peer relationships increase in importance, especially during the teen and preteen years.

While we can't say what causes delinquency in an individual child, certain factors are correlated with delinquency. One of the strongest correlates is delinquent peer associations. But it is not known whether a child's choice of friends results in delinquency or whether a child, already inclined to delinquency, chooses delinquent friends.

Q ***Can juveniles have a lawyer if they have to go to court?***

A Yes. Among the due process rights set forth in the 1967 Supreme Court decision *In re Gault* is the right of juveniles and their parents to be advised of their right to counsel. If they wish counsel but are unable to retain one, counsel will be appointed by the court.

Q ***Do programs like "Scared Straight" work in preventing young people from becoming delinquent?***

A One of the more recently popularized approaches to delinquency control and prevention is to have adult prison inmates (lifers) "scare" delinquents or suspected delinquents "straight."

"Scared Straight" is the name given to the Juvenile Awareness Project at New Jersey's Rahway State Prison. The label comes from the title of an Academy Award-winning film about the project.

James Finckenauer, a researcher at Rutgers University, concluded after a 16-month evaluation of the program that there was little if any evidence of the successful prevention of future delinquency among those youth who went through the program compared with youth who did not.

Moreover, Finckenauer found that among his sample of youth who did go through the problem, more serious forms of delinquency occurred than among youths who did not go through the program.

Numerous researchers, policymakers, and members of the public at large have, in addition, questioned the tactics of Awareness programs, suggesting that potential traumatizing of youth may be a high price to pay for any amount of delinquency prevention.

Reference: Finckenauer, J. *Scared Straight and the Panacea Phenomenon*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1982. NCJ 80599.

Q *Do teenagers who get in trouble generally grow up to be adult criminals?*

A Although most adult criminals had juvenile records, this does not mean that most juvenile delinquents become adult offenders. Shannon indicates (pp. v, 9-10) that the pattern of delinquent behavior over time is one of declining seriousness and discontinuation after the teen period. He concludes that those few youths who do continue to have police contacts with an increase in seriousness are those who become well known to the adult justice system, thus creating an impression of continuity and increasing seriousness in delinquency and criminal careers.

Q *If my child gets arrested, does he automatically go to Juvenile Court?*

A Formal judicial action against a juvenile upon arrest (or at any stage of his processing) is not always automatic. Many "police contacts" do not result in an arrest, and only about half those arrested are referred to court. Among these, 54 percent are handled informally ("without petition"). Moreover, it has been urged that certain groups of children, such as runaways and truants, should be removed from the court and helped in the community.

In light of these statements, the concept and practice of *diversion*--the use of alternative methods for handling juvenile offenders outside the system--has become rather widespread.

Diversion varies in type, purpose, and formality. More formal diversion programs, however, refer children to services available within a network of agencies that make up a community's extended juvenile justice system. Diversion programs have developed at all agency levels, providing such services as counseling, education, training, and psychiatric care.

The decision whether a child is formally prosecuted or referred to an alternative program is usually made by intake officials in the Juvenile Court or, even earlier, by prosecutors and the police.

Resource list

This section lists organizations and agencies which may be able to provide information to concerned citizens--or in some cases, help to concerned parents--on matters concerning juvenile justice, child care, and youth development.

A more complete listing, including county and local agencies, may be found in the *National Directory of Children and Youth Services*, compiled by the editors of *Child Protection Report*, 1301 20th Street NW., Washington, DC 20036, copyright 1981 CPR Directory Services Company.

A hot line called "Peace of Mind" permits youth to send messages to their parents without revealing the youth's location. Its numbers are:

(800) 231-6946

In Texas: (800) 392-3352

In Alaska or Hawaii:
(800) 231-6762

The National Runaway Switchboard, operated by the Youth Development Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services, informs youth what services are available to them and permits them to telephone their parents long distance without charge. Its number is:

(800) 621-4000

The National Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, operated for the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, is a source of reference materials, data base searches, publications, and library services in juvenile justice. (It is not, however, a source of emergency help.) Its address and telephone numbers are:

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
NCJRS
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850
(800) 638-8736 or
(301) 251-5500

The Federal Government's role in juvenile justice takes many forms --establishment of national policy, sponsoring of research, dissemination of information. Although juvenile justice remains basically a function of States and localities, these are among the Federal offices whose mandate includes matters of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention:

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
633 Indiana Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20531
(202) 724-7751

Within OJJDP, there are the following agencies, all at the same address:

National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

--Research and Program Development Division
--Training, Dissemination, and Standards Division

Office of Programs

--Formula Grants and Technical Assistance Division
--Special Emphasis Division

Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families
400 Sixth Street NW.
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 755-7762

--Office of Services for Children and Youth
--Children's Bureau
--National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
--Youth Development Bureau

Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW.
Washington, DC 20202
(202) 245-8720

--Elementary and Secondary Education
--Special Education and Rehabilitation

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1951 Constitution Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20245
(703) 235-2756

Department of Labor
Office of Youth Programs
601 D Street NW.
Washington, DC 20213
(202) 376-7288

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Senate Committees

Judiciary
Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice
Room A-523
14 D Street NW.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-9024

Labor and Human Resources
Subcommittee on Aging, Family, and Human Resources
Room A-624, Annex III
Immigration Building
14 D Street NW.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5375

House Committees

Judiciary
Subcommittee on Crime
207-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1695

Education and Labor
Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education
B-346C Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4368

Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3508

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Aspira of America, Inc.
205 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 889-6101

Association for Children with Learning Disabilities
4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
(412) 341-1515

Big Brothers and Big Sisters
117 South 17th Street, Suite 1200
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 567-2748

Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Lane
Irving, TX 75062
(214) 659-2000

Boy's Clubs of America
771 First Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 557-7755

Camp Fire Girls
4601 Madison Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64112
(816) 756-1950

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.
67 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003
(212) 254-7410

Children's Defense Fund
1520 New Hampshire Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 483-1470

Council on Jewish Federations
575 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 751-1311

Family Service Association of America
44 East 23d Street
New York, NY 10010
(212) 674-6100

Girl Scouts of U.S.A.
830 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 940-7500

Girls Clubs of America, Inc.
205 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 689-3700

National Association of Black Social Workers
1969 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10035
(212) 369-0639

National Conference of Black Lawyers
126 West 119th Street
New York, NY 10026
(212) 864-4000

National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health and Human Services Organizations
1015 15th Street NW., Suite 402
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 638-0505

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
University of Nevada
Box 8000
Reno, NV 89507
(702) 784-6012

National Council of the YMCA's of U.S.A.
291 Broadway
New York, NY 10007
(212) 374-2000

National Council on Crime and Delinquency
Continental Plaza
411 Hackensack Plaza
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 448-0400

National Council of Negro Women
1819 H Street NW.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 293-3906

National Network of Runaway and Youth Services, Inc.
1705 DeSales Street NW., Eighth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 466-4214

National Urban League
500 East 62d Street
New York, NY 10021
(212) 644-6678

National Youth Work Alliance
1346 Connecticut Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 785-0764

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
810 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019
(212) 541-7800

Pretrial Services Resource Center
918 F Street NW., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 638-3080

United Way of America
801 North Fairfax
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 836-7100

Young Women's Christian Assoc. (YWCA)
600 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
(212) 753-4700

STATE LIST

The following listings indicate that agency within each State whose responsibility it is to oversee and coordinate juvenile justice, child care services, or both. While some States have other agencies sharing in different aspects of youth services, the agencies we indicate should be able to refer you to another office when necessary.

Alabama
Department of Youth Services
Box 66
Mount Meigs, AL 36057
(205) 832-3910

Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services
Alaska Office Building, Room 204
Pouch H-01
Juneau, AK 99811
(907) 465-3030

Arizona
Department of Economic Security
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families
1717 West Jefferson Street
Box 6123
Phoenix, AZ 85005
(602) 255-3981

Arkansas
Department of Human Services
Division of Youth Services
1320 C Brookwood Drive
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 371-2651

California
Department of the Youth Authority
4241 Williamsbourgh Drive
Sacramento, CA 95823
(916) 445-2046

Colorado
Division of Youth Services
4255 South Knox Court
Denver, CO 80236
(303) 789-1822

Connecticut
Department of Children & Youth Services
345 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06115
(203) 566-3661

Delaware
Department of Correction
Bureau of Juvenile Correction
80 Monrovia Avenue
Smyrna, DE 19977
(302) 736-5601

District of Columbia
Youth Services Administration
Department of Human Services
122 C Street NW.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 727-3225

Florida
Children, Youth and Family Services Program Office
Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services
1317 Winewood Boulevard S, Room 317
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 488-8762

Georgia
Division of Youth Services
Department of Human Resources
618 Ponce De Leon Avenue NE.
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 894-4565

Hawaii
Office of Children and Youth
Box 3044
Honolulu, HI 96802
(808) 548-7582

Idaho
Youth and Rehabilitation
Department of Health and Welfare
State House
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 384-3340

Illinois
Department of Children and Family Services
One North Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 785-2509

Indiana
Indiana Youth Authority
Department of Correction
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-5711

Iowa
Bureau of Children's Services
Department of Social Services
Hoover State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5521

Kansas
Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services
State Office Building
Topeka, KS 66612
(913) 296-3271

Kentucky
Division for Residential Services
Bureau for Social Services
Department of Human Resources
275 East Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-7220

Louisiana
Division of Youth Services
Department of Health and Human Resources
333 Laurel Street, Room 316
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-2644

Maine
Department of Mental Health and Corrections
State Office Building
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-3161

Maryland
Juvenile Services Administration
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(301) 383-3773

Massachusetts
Department of Youth Services
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Michigan
Department of Social Services
300 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-2046

Minnesota
Department of Corrections
Metro Square Building, Room 430
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-3565

Mississippi
Department of Youth Services
Woolfolk State Office Building
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 345-6512

Missouri
Division of Youth Services
Department of Social Services
402 Dix Road, Box 447
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Montana
Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services
Box 4210
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-6522

Nebraska
Probation Administration
State Capitol
Box 94652
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-2141

Nevada
Youth Services Division
Department of Human Resources
505 East King Street
Carson City, NV 89710
(702) 885-4730

New Hampshire
Department of Probation
11 Depot Street, Box 769
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-2317

New Jersey
Department of Corrections
Whittlesey Road, Box 7387
Trenton, NJ 08628
(609) 984-0203

New Mexico
Department of Corrections and Criminal Rehabilitation
113 Washington Avenue, Box 2325
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 872-5222

New York
Division for Youth
84 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208
(518) 473-8438

North Carolina
Division of Youth Services
Department of Human Resources
401 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 733-3011

North Dakota
Community Services Division
Social Services Board of North Dakota
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 224-2316

Ohio
Ohio Youth Commission
35 East Gay Street
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 466-8783

Oklahoma
Bureau of Institutions and Community Services to Children and Youth
Box 25352
Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405) 521-2197

Oregon
Juvenile Corrections Services
Department of Human Resources
2450 Strong Road SE.
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 981-9531

Pennsylvania
Bureau of Group Residential Services
Office of Children, Youth, and Families
Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-6094

Rhode Island
Department for Children and Their Families
Institutional Services
400 New London Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
(401) 464-2274

South Carolina
Department of Youth Services
4900 Broad River Road, Box 21487
Columbia, SC 29221
(803) 758-6251

South Dakota
Board of Charities and Corrections
Joe Foss Building
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-3478

Tennessee
Department of Correction
State Office Building, Fourth Floor
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 741-2071

Texas
Texas Youth Council
Box 9999
Austin, TX 78766
(512) 452-8111

Utah
Division of Youth Corrections
Department of Social Services
150 West North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
(801) 533-5094

Vermont
Social Services Division
Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
(802) 241-2131

Virginia
Department of Corrections
4615 West Broad Street, Box 26963
Richmond, VA 23261
(804) 257-6172

Washington
Bureau of Juvenile Rehabilitation
Department of Social and Health Services
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-7402

West Virginia
Department of Corrections
Youth Services
1116 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 348-2037

Wisconsin
Division of Corrections
Department of Health and Social Services
State Office Building
One West Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-2471

Wyoming
Board of Charities and Reform
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7405

Reading list

Most of the publications listed below have been produced by the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention since it founded its Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse in 1979. Publications available from the Government Printing Office are designated "GPO."

Single copies of some but not all of the NIJJDP publications are available free from the Clearinghouse. Inquiries should be addressed to:

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse
NCJRS
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850.

Orders or inquiries to the GPO should be addressed:

Superintendent of Documents
Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20402.

Documents indicated "Microfiche" in this list are available free in standard 24x microfilm. (If you order more than 10 items at a time, there is a charge of $1.05 each plus postage and handling.) Many public, academic, or organizational libraries have the necessary viewing equipment. To order microfiche, send title, NCJ number, and a self-addressed mailing label to:

NCJRS Microfiche Program
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850

Most of the documents listed can be borrowed from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service on interlibrary loan. Documents are not loaned directly to individuals. To borrow documents from NCJRS, specify title and NCJ number and ask your librarian to submit a standard interlibrary loan form to:

NCJRS Document Loan Program
Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20850.

Titles marked (ACR) are from the NIJJDP series Reports of the National Juvenile Justice Assessment Centers.

NIJJDP Publications

Altschuler, D.M., and Lawrence, J.S. A Review of Selected Research and Program Evaluations on Police Diversion Programs (ACR). 83 p. Microfiche. NCJ 82014.

Analysis of National Crime Victimization Survey Data To Study Serious Delinquent Behavior. GPO, Microfiche.

McDermott, M.J., and Hindelang, M.J. Monograph 1: Juvenile Criminal Behavior in the United States--Its Trends and Patterns. 116 p. NCJ 74079.

Hindeland, M.J., and McDermott, M. J. Monograph 2: Juvenile Criminal Behavior--Analysis of Rates and Victim Characteristics. 129 p. NCJ 74080.

Laub, J.H., and Hindelang, M.J. Monograph 3: Juvenile Criminal Behavior in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas. 121 p. NCJ 75127.

Danser, K.R., and Laub, J.H. Monograph 4: Juvenile Criminal Behavior and Its Relation to Economic Conditions. 121 p. NCJ 76217.

Sampson, R.J.; Castellano, T.C.; and Laub, J.H. Monograph 5: Juvenile Criminal Behavior and Its Relation to Neighborhood Characteristics. 142 p. NCJ 77156.

Berleman, W.C. Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Experiments: A Review and Analysis (ACR). Microfiche. NCJ 66335.

Black, T.E., and Smith, C.P. Preliminary National Assessment of the Numbers and Characteristics of Juveniles Processed in the Juvenile Justice System (ACR). 217 p. GPO, Microfiche. NCJ 77157.

Hawkins, J.D.; Pastor, P.A., Jr.; Bell, M.; and Morrison, S. Typology of Cause-Focused Strategies of Delinquency Prevention (ACR). 49 p. GPO, Microfiche. NCJ 66331.

Hawkins, J.D., and Wall, J.S. Alternative Education--Exploring the Delinquency Prevention Potential (ACR). GPO, Microfiche. NCJ 66332.

Janvier, R.L.; Guthmann, D.R.; and Catalano, R.F., Jr. Assessment of Evaluations of Drug Abuse Prevention Programs (ACR). GPO, Microfiche. NCJ 66334.

Juvenile Justice--Before and After the Onset of Delinquency. United States Discussion Paper for the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. 81 p. GPO, Microfiche. NCJ 73449.

Juvenile Justice Standards Symposium: A Summary. 16 p. NCJ 76911.

Levitt, J.L.; Young, T.M.; and Pappenfort, D.M. Achievement Place: The Teaching-Family Model in a Group Home Setting (ACR). 64 p. Microfiche. NCJ 78276.

McCulloh, R.W. Comparative Analysis of Juvenile Justice Standards and the JJDP Act. Microfiche:

Volume 1--Delinquency Prevention and Diversion. NCJ 76581.

Volume 2--Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders and Nonoffenders and Separation of Juveniles From Incarcerated Adults. NCJ 76582.

Volume 3--Reducing Detention and Commitments and Community-Based Alternatives to Incarceration. NCJ 76583.

Volume 4--Advocacy for Services and Due Process/Procedural Safeguards. NCJ 76584.

National Assessment of Case Disposition and Classification in the Juvenile Justice System: Inconsistent Labeling (ACR). GPO, Microfiche:

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adjudication: A Juvenile Court decision, after a hearing, to uphold a petition by finding a child delinquent, a status offender, or dependent, or else to dismiss the petition and release the child.

aftercare: Supervision or treatment given children for a limited time after they are released from a correctional program, but still under the control of the Juvenile Court.

child abuse: Willful causing of physical harm to a child. Frequently would bring the child under the protection of the Juvenile Court.

child neglect: Willful failure to provide for one's child or ward adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, or supervision. Frequently would bring the child under protection of the Juvenile Court.

deinstitutionalization: Moving juveniles out of secure care facilities, detention centers, or jails and into community-based programs or into the community.

delinquent: A juvenile whom a judicial officer of a Juvenile Court has adjudged to have committed a delinquent act.

delinquent act: An act committed by a juvenile for which an adult could be prosecuted in a criminal court.

dependency: Legal status of juveniles over whom the court has assumed jurisdiction upon a finding that their care by parents or guardians has fallen short of proper legal standards.

detention: Holding a child in physically restrictive, secure facilities until court disposition or another court order (such as placement in a nonsecure facility while awaiting disposition). **detention center:** The locked ("secure") facility in which such children are detained.

detention hearing: A proceeding before a judicial officer to determine whether a child is to be detained, continue to be detained, or released pending further Juvenile Court action.

disposition: The Juvenile Court's decision, after a petition is sustained, whether the child should be placed in a correctional facility, placed in a care or treatment program, be required to meet certain standards of conduct, or be released. A care program for a dependent child might be placement in a foster home.

diversion: Removing a juvenile from the formal justice system and referring the child to an agency outside the justice system for treatment or care. This step may be taken at any point in formal processing, from initial custody to the adjudication phase.

Family Court: A court of limited jurisdiction whose authority covers family matters such as neglect, delinquency, paternity, support, and noncriminal misbehavior.

group home: A nonsecure residential facility for adjudicated juveniles intended to approximate family life and provide access to community activities.

intake: Process of receiving into the juvenile justice system a juvenile referred or taken into custody. At the intake stage, decisions must be made whether to file a petition in Juvenile Court, release the juvenile, place the juvenile under supervision, or refer to another private or governmental agency.

Juvenile Court: A court of limited jurisdiction which holds original jurisdiction over persons defined by law as juveniles and alleged to be delinquents, status offenders, or dependent and in need of support.

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Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974: Federal law establishing the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention within the U.S. Department of Justice to provide funds for the control and prevention of juvenile delinquency. Amended in 1977 and 1980.

parole: Conditional release from a correctional institution, such as a training school, before the term of disposition expires, with supervision by the paroling authority.

petition: Document filed in Juvenile Court, usually by a prosecutor, asking that the court take jurisdiction over a juvenile alleged to be delinquent, a status offender, or dependent.

PINS, CHINS: Person in need of supervision; child in need of supervision; various States use other similar designations. Juveniles found to be ungovernable, incorrigible, truant, or habitually disobedient; many "status offenders"; see "status offense" below.

probation: Conditional release of an adjudicated offender into the community, by court order and under court supervision, under specified conditions, for a set amount of time.

residential child care facility: Dwelling other than a detention or shelter care facility that is licensed (or operated) by government to provide living accomodations, care, and treatment for children and youths. Includes foster homes, group homes, and halfway houses.

restitution: Compliance with a court order that an offender restore what a victim has lost through a crime or delinquency. Juveniles, ordered by the court to make restitution, may be required to pay back or repair damages to the property of their victims, or perform services to the community.

runaway: A juvenile whom a Juvenile Court has found to have committed the status offense of leaving the custody or home of parent or guardian without permission and without returning in a reasonable period of time.

status offense: An act prohibited by statute, but only when committed by a juvenile, such as running away from home or truancy.

take into custody: Law officers' securing the physical custody of a juvenile alleged to be delinquent; comparable to the arrest of an adult.

training school: Correctional facility for juveniles committed to confinement by the Juvenile Court. Also called reform school.

transfer or waiver to adult court: A Juvenile Court decision, after a hearing, to relinquish its jurisdiction and permit a juvenile to be tried as an adult in a criminal court. In some States, the prosecutor and not the court may decide to try juveniles for specified serious crimes in adult rather than Juvenile Court. In others (e.g., New York), certain crimes are automatically tried in adult court unless that court waives the case back to Juvenile Court.

treatment: ". . . includes but is not limited to medical, educational, special education, corrective and preventive guidance and training, and other rehabilitative services designed to protect the public, including services designed to benefit addicts and other users by eliminating their dependence on alcohol or other addictive or nonaddictive drugs or by controlling their dependence and susceptibility to addiction or use." (JJDP Act definition.) Rehabilitative approaches used to effect a change from unacceptable to acceptable behaviors.